

Message for U.S. Citizens – Dengue Fever
U.S. Embassy La Paz, Bolivia
January 6, 2012

This message informs U.S. citizens traveling to and residing in Bolivia of a dengue outbreak in the lower-lying regions of the country.

The Bolivian Ministry of Health has declared a health emergency in La Paz, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz departments due to a serious dengue epidemic of dengue virus types 1 and 2. The most affected area is in and around the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

In 2011, dengue took the lives of 53 people in Bolivia. From October to December 2011, 287 dengue cases were registered in the country, most of them in municipalities close to rivers in the departments of Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, and La Paz. To date 164 cases have been reported in Cochabamba, 87 in Santa Cruz, 82 in La Paz and 8 in Beni.

According to the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), dengue is caused by any one of four related viruses transmitted by mosquitoes. The primary symptoms of dengue are:

- High fever and at least two of the following:
 - Severe headache
 - Severe eye pain (behind eyes)
 - Joint pain
 - Muscle and/or bone pain
 - Rash
 - Mild bleeding manifestation (e.g., nose or gum bleed, or easy bruising)
 - Low white cell count

The CDC recommends that a person go immediately to an emergency room or the closest health care provider if any of the following warning signs appear:

- Severe abdominal pain or persistent vomiting
- Red spots or patches on the skin
- Bleeding from nose or gums
- Vomiting blood
- Black, tarry stools (feces, excrement)
- Drowsiness or irritability
- Pale, cold, or clammy skin
- Difficulty breathing

We urge you to take all preventative measures to reduce your risk of contracting this mosquito-borne disease. If you reside in one of the affected regions, we suggest you wear insect repellent while indoors or out and eliminate any standing water in and around your home where mosquitoes could lay their eggs. In addition, make sure window and door screens are secure and without holes or use air conditioning. When possible, you should also wear long sleeves and pants for additional protection.

The U.S. Embassy encourages you to register and update your contact information at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz and/or the U.S. consular agencies in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Registration may be done online and can be done in advance of travel. Information on registering may be found at the Department of State's Consular Affairs website: <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

For the latest security information, you should regularly monitor the Department's internet website at <http://travel.state.gov> where the current worldwide caution, travel warnings and travel alerts can be found. Additional information is available in the country specific information for Bolivia at <http://travel.state.gov> and on the embassy web page at <http://bolivia.usembassy.gov>.

Current information on travel and security in Bolivia may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States, or, from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). U.S. citizens traveling or residing overseas are encouraged to register with the appropriate U.S. embassy or consulate on the State Department's travel registration web site at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

You can contact the American Citizen Services Unit at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia, via e-mail at consularlapaz@state.gov or by telephone at 591-2-216-8246 during regular business hours (Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or 591-715-33713 after hours and on weekends. The U.S. Embassy is located at 2780 Avenida Arce in La Paz, Bolivia, and is open to the public by appointment on Monday through Thursday from 08:00 to 12:30, and Thursdays from 14:00 to 16:00. You can schedule a non-emergency appointment by visiting this [website: http://bolivia.usembassy.gov/service.html](http://bolivia.usembassy.gov/service.html)

The Embassy operates two Consular Agencies in the cities of Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, Bolivia. These agencies can also provide assistance to U.S. citizens. The Santa Cruz Consular Agency is located on Roque Aguilera Avenue #146 (3rd ring). You can contact the Santa Cruz Consular Agency by telephone at 591-3-351-3477, during regular business hours (Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.). The Cochabamba Consular Agency is located on Edificio Saal, Avenida Pando 1122, 1st Floor. You can contact the Cochabamba Consular Agency by telephone at 591-4-411-6313, during regular business hours (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.). If you wish to visit the Consular Agencies for a non-emergency matter, please schedule an appointment through this website: <http://bolivia.usembassy.gov/service.html>

We hope this information is useful to you. If we may provide further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
American Citizen Services Unit
U.S. Embassy La Paz, Bolivia